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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/848,966	05/04/2001	Richard L. Cunningham	IMD008	6935

7590

02/27/2003

Immersion Corporation
801 Fox Lane
San Jose, CA 95131

EXAMINER

PATEL, NITIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2673

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/848,966

Applicant(s)

CUNNINGHAM ET AL.

Examiner

Nitin Patel

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beeks (U.S. Patent no. 6,373,463) in view of Kramer et al., (US 2002/00212277).

As per claims 1,16,24,35 Beeks shows a method for interfacing a user with a computer running an application program (in col.3 lines 50-67), the computer generating a graphical environment comprising a cursor (element 108 In fig.1) and a graphical representation (GUI or image In Col.4 lines 6-15); providing an object in communication with the computer (pointing device 104 and 106 In col.3 lines 45-47); controlling the cursor in relation to a manipulation of an object and outputting a haptic sensation to the user when the cursor interacts with a region within the graphical representation to provide the user with haptic feedback (In col.45-63).Beeks does not specifically show a graphical representation of at least a portion of living body and haptic feedback related to a palpation of the region. Kramer shows a graphical representative portion of the user and a simulated palpation of the region (On page 2 lines Fig.1 description and On page 3 section of 0041 description as a medical procedure simulation program). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention was made to allow the teaching of Kramer's into the system of Beck's because it would have allow a

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use to controlling the position of the cursor in relation to the graphical representation position of the mouse and controlling a graphical representation of a human body part in relation to an amount of manipulation of the mouse.

As per claims 2-7,17-23,25 Beeks does not show the application program having a palpation training program and first and second haptic sensation when cursor interact with a second region of a user hand that stimulate a use pulse. Kramer shows (On page 2-4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in that art at the time of the invention was made to allow the teaching of kramer's into the system of Beck's because it would have allow the user to a realistically interact with the graphical environment.

As per claims 8-11,26,43 Beeks shows haptic simulates with a vibration, force (In Col.4 lines 20-65).

As per claims 11,27,42,44 Beeks shows the object comprises a mouse (In col.3 lines 47-49).

As per claims 12-15,28-34,45-54 Beeks shows actuator coupled to a mouse to simulate sensation that capable of causing the grounded linkage to apply sensation to the user (In Col.4 lines 35-67 to Col.5 lines 1-67).

As per claims 36-41, Beeks does not specifically show computer readable medium is a portable compact disk or a DVD, which could be read over a network. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention was made that most program are stored on a magnetic disk that could be a Hard drive or a disk or a DVD which be connected to a network to share information or get information from a network server.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nitin Patel whose telephone number is 703-308-7024. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin H Shalwala can be reached on 703-305-4938. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-308-9052 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9618.

NP
February 24, 2003



**VIJAY SHANKAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER**